



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter-Conway, Chair  
Members, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senate Office Building, Suite 2W  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 564 – Environment – Water Pollution Control – Penalty

Dear Chairwoman Conway and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment has reviewed Senate Bill 564, Environment – Water Pollution Control – Penalty, and would like to express our support for this bill.

SB 564 would double the administrative penalty MDE may impose for water pollution violations under 9-342 from a daily maximum of \$5,000 per day to \$10,000 per day and would also raise the administrative cap for such violations from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Strengthening the State's laws with respect to fines and penalties associated with water pollution violations enhances the State's overall efforts to curb and reduce pollution to Maryland's waterways, tributaries, and the Chesapeake Bay through enhanced deterrence and potential increases in the number of cases addressed through administrative actions. This penalty increase would make the State's enforcement authority more consistent with federal authority under the Clean Water Act, which MDE is delegated to implement in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [Jeffrey.Fretwell@maryland.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Fretwell@maryland.gov) if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey K. Fretwell

cc: Robert M. Summers, Secretary  
Jay G. Sakai, MDE, Director, Water Management Administration

